THE RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
408 Division Street, Northfield, MN 55057

2006 Fall Issue

The Rice County Genealogical Society meets at 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday on even months at the Rice County Historical Society Museum, 1814 NW 2nd Avenue, Faribault, and on odd months in the Marston Headley Research Room in the lower level of the Northfield Historical Society Building, 408 Division Street, Northfield. Meetings are suspended during June, July and August. Special meetings may be called for research trips or for working on projects.

MEETING DATES:

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| Sept. 19, 2006 | Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting. Newsletter items due |
| Oct. 17, 2006 | Faribault: 2:00 regular meeting. Approve the Fall 2006 Newsletter and set date for printing and mailing. |
| Nov. 21, 2006 | Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting. Election of officers for 2008. Dues for 2008 due. |
| Dec. 19, 2006 | Faribault: 11:30 Annual Christmas get-together at The Depot. 2:00 short meeting at the Rice Co.Historical Society Museum. Final date for 2008 dues to be paid. |
| Jan. 16, 2007 | Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting. |
| Feb. 20, 2007 | Faribault: 2:00 regular meeting. |
| Mar. 20, 2007 | Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting. Newsletter items due |
| Apr. 17, 2007 | Faribault: 2:00 regular meeting. Newsletter items due |
| May 15, 2007 | Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting Approve the Spring 2007 Newsletter and set date for printing and mailing. |

OFFICERS:

President.....Audrey DeMann
Vice President.....Arlene Williams
Secretary-Treasurer.....Dorothy Herkenratt
Newsletter Editor/Publisher Dorothy Herkenratt

Dues are for the calendar year and are $10 for an individual and $12 for a family. The newsletter is included with membership

Members currently are actively working on their family lines and in searching out the history of those who came to live in or who passed through Rice County. When we have queries from others not in our family lines who seek help on their research projects, we refer them to one of our current members who is willing to do research for a fee. To secure more information on services she offers and her fee schedule, please contact her directly: Norma Gilbertson, 808 E. 5th St., Northfield, MN 55057 Ph.: 507-664-9591 e.mail: ngilber@rconnect.com

Most Fridays the Marston Headley Research Room will be manned. Please call ahead to schedule research on other days.

# RICE GLEANINGS

From The Rice County Genealogical Society

## SOME DRAKE FAMILY HISTORY (Part 3)

In this segment I will relate some of the Drake history which has come down from Richard Herkenratt's great aunts Amoret Whittier and Agnes Wirtz and grandfather Sumner Drake as well as from his mother Ila Drake Herkenratt and Amoret's daughter Grace A. Whittier. I will also draw upon conversations I had with Mrs. Geo. E. Larkin (Mary Edna Drake, daughter of Charles Bon Drake) known to the family as Aunt Matie and her daughter Clara Larkin Bryan (Mrs. Earl Charles "Bill" Bryan), Edna Larkin Rock (Mrs. Donald Rock), and others.

As was stated before, the first Drake to come to MN was Edwin Sumner Drake who took land in the Root River valley in Houston Co. in the early spring of 1854. While here, his team of horses broke their tether and left the area, so Edwin went on foot to recover them, leaving Martha and little son Arthur alone for ten days. He recovered only the one horse at that time and thereafter used a team of oxen to work the land. He did not stay in the Root River valley long before selling out and going back to join the other Drakes in Wallworth Co., WI.

However, while Edwin was searching for the "right" place to settle and making a profit as he went, his father and brothers Joseph Reeves, Charles Bon and Albert Wheeler had already departed for MN to take advantage of claiming some of the good land opening up in what is now Rice County before returning to bring families to new homes in MN. One of their neighbors and friends, Daniel Bunday, decided to travel with the Drake boys and also establish a claim. Of course, obtaining land was not his only reason for coming as he was hoping that when he was established he would also be able to "claim" the Drake brothers sister, Mary Melissa, which he did, and the marriage of Mary Melissa Drake to Daniel Bunday in 1855 was the first recorded in Bridgewater Twp. (Daniel's parents Jeremiah and Betsy Storms Bunday and Dan's eight siblings Sarah Ann, Nancy, Mary, Oscar, Sylvanius, Jeremiah and Jane soon followed and were settled here by 1855.)

The eldest Drake son, Joseph Reeves Drake, wife Betsy and children Mary Cornelia, Harriet Melisa, Francis John and Edwin Wesley settled on 160 acres in Sec. 13, Bridgewater Twp. which he secured with land warrants earned by his service in the Civil War. This farm for many years was known as the Tschann place, now owned by Dennis Closson. Joseph also expanding his holdings to 280 acres by buying another 120 acres in Sec. 14).

While living here, Joseph R. and Betsy Drake became parents to three more children: Chester Reeves, Charles Fremont and Eulalia Josephine. About 1865 Joseph moved his family first to TN and then to Clay Co., IA. It is interesting to note that Joseph, Betsy and at least two of their daughters, Mary Cornelia and Harriet Melisa, died of t.b. while other family members who lived relatively long lives were undoubtedly infected also. It is thought that Joseph probably contracted the disease during his service in the Civil War. Joseph Reeves, Betsy his wife and daughter Mary Cornelia were brought back to be buried in the Northfield Cemetery. The only one of this family to return to MN to live was daughter Harriet Melisa who married Elisha Grover. The Grovers lived on farms in the Northfield and Dundas area, and Melissa died on the Dundas farm at the age of 37. They had one child, Joseph Grover, who married Margaret Drake, the daughter of Francis John and Marcella Brown Drake. This family resided in St. Paul.

Tragedy struck this family twice: once through the introduction of t.b. into the family resulting from Joseph Reeves Drake's service in the Civil War and second through Elisha Grover's grief following his young wife's death, which ultimately resulted in his death. Elisha in his hopes to keep memories of Harriet alive had refused to part with his wife's horse which she had allegedly sold prior to her death, and when a law enforcement official and the presumed new owner tried to take possession, gunfire ensued resulting in the death of Elisha and the wounding of the official. Elisha, who had been born in New York in 1849, had been a resident of MN for just fifteen years. The couple's son Joseph was only three and a half at the time of his parents' deaths.

Joseph Reeves Drake also appears in the history of the Drake Family Bible as he was the eldest son of Joseph and Ruth Bon Drake. Tradition had the possession of the Bible passing down from the father Joseph to the eldest son of the family who would also be named Joseph. Joseph Reeves was given the Bible following the death of his father, and when Joseph Reeves Drake and family left MN, the Bible was taken to TN where it was left in a barn loft when the family again moved, this time to IA. It was left to Joseph's brother Edwin Sumner Drake to retrieve the Bible and bring it back to Rice County.

TO BE CONTINUED

Dorothy Chester Herkenratt, Secretary/Treasurer

## Reading Land Records for Family Information

In the Spring 2006 issue of *Rice Gleanings*, I discussed how to read land descriptions to locate a certain property. In this issue I shall discuss using an abstract to not only locate a piece of property, but also possibly to glean some family history as well.

For an illustration, I shall use the abstract for land in Bridgewater Twp. on which Edwin S. Drake first settled, i.e. the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 26, Twp. 111 North, Range 20 West of the 5th Principal Meridian. (Description of the land is Entry No. 1)

**Entry No. 2** is from Military Bounty Land Act of March 3, 1855, Register's Office, Red Wing, July 14th, 1856. Military Land Warrant No. 28678 in the name of Eliza Allen has this day been located by Edwin S. Drake upon the North East Quarter of Section 26 in Township 111 of Range 20 subject to any pre-emption claim which may be filed for said land within forty days from this date. Contents of tract located 160 acres. W. W. Phelps, Register Filed for record May 4, 1868 at 10 A.M. and recorded in Book B of MR on page 404.

(This is confirmed as follows: **LAND OFFICE RECORDS - lands sold by the United States government lying within the limits of Rice County, Minnesota, from U. S. Land Office, Cass Lake, Minnesota, "Tract Books", St. Cloud Series, Volumes 15 and 23.**

**LAND GRANT RECORDS: RICE COUNTY** (Note: Land Warrants to War Veterans)
BRIDGEWATER TWP. 111 North, Range 20 West
Edmund Drake Sec. 26 NE 1/4 160 acres Land Warrant 7/14/1856
**However, you will note that the name was listed in error as Edmund Drake, not Edwin S. Drake)**

From this abstract entry you find the confirmation of the fact that Edwin S. Drake secured his 160 acres by buying the Military Land Warrant #28678 which was owned by Eliza Allen who held it due to the service of her late husband. Since Military Land Warrants awarded free land to war veterans, we cannot determine what Edwin S. Drake paid Eliza Allen for her land rights.

**Entry No. 3.** The United States of America. Dated September 4th, 1858.
Filed May 3rd, 1920 at 5:35 P.M.
To- Patent. Recorded in book 33 of deeds page 559.
Warrant No. 28678 for 160 acres, covering:
Edwin S. Drake. The NE 1/4 of Section 26, Township 111, Range 20
in the district of lands formerly subject
to sale at Red Wing now Henderson, Minnesota.
Signed, by the President: James Buchanan
by T. J. Albright, Secretary and J. N. Granger,
Recorder of the General Land Office.
U. S. General Land Office Seal.

**Entries No. 4, 5 & 6** show that on July 6, 1875 E. S. Drake and Martha his wife borrowed $1200 against the land from Phillip S. Beebe and gave a mortgage deed, repaid part of the loan secured by the S 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 and received a partial release July 30, 1879, and repaid the rest of the loan and received a satisfaction of mortgage on June 10, 1884.

**Entries No. 7 & 8.** show that on February 13, 1883 Edwin S. Drake and Martha Drake, his wife, again borrowed money, this time from Geo. W. Phillips in the amount of $2475 on the N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 and other lands not in this abstract, and lands in Goodhue and Dakota counties. That the said premises were free from all encumbrances excepting a mortgage of $10,000 on land in Goodhue and Dakota counties and one of $800 on the lands in Rice County. This loan was satisfied on June 8, 1883 and recorded August 11, 1883. (It should be noted that the lender's name was listed as Geo. W. Phillips and the satisfaction by Geo. M. Phillips with a notation "Signed as: G. M. Phillips".)

Entry 9. This entry shows that on August 2, 1887 E. S. Drake and Martha Drake, his wife, borrowed $1000 from James Babb secured by a mortgage deed. This loan was on the N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 and was due August 2, 1890, interest at 7%.

Entry 10. Here E. S. Drake and Martha Drake his wife on April 4, 1898 sell and give a warranty deed to Joseph E. Drake (their eldest son) the N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 (continued on page 4)

**Entry 10 (cont.)** containing 80 acres more or less, subject to the $1000 mortgage to James Babb which Joseph E. Drake assumed.

**Entry 11.** On October 15, 1898 Joseph E. Drake and Selina Drake his wife sold part of the land to John F. Donaldson for which they received $120. The parcel sold was that part of the N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 which lies South Westerly of the Dundas and Cannon City road, being about 3 acres of land.

**Entry 12.** James Babb gave a partial release December 8, 1899 to E. S. Drake and Martha Drake to the 3 acre parcel of land in Entry 11 for the sum of $100.

**Entries 13, 14 and 15.** These entries concern the satisfaction of mortgage on the balance of the land after the death of James Babb. This includes the information on the executors named in the will of James Babb which was filed in Dakota Co., namely George M. Phillips and Frank J. Wilcox.

**Entries 16 & 17.** On March 24, 1920 Joseph E. and Selina Drake for $30,000 sold and gave a warranty deed to I. F. Peacock and Mary E. Peacock his wife "all that part of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 lying east of the highway which runs through a portion of said land; also other land not in this abstract, free from all incumbrances excepting a mortgage for $26,000 which is a portion of the above named consideration and subject to the rights of the present tenant thereon under a lease expiring Sept. 1, 1920." In turn, I. F. and Mary E. Peacock on the same day gave a mortgage deed for $26,000 for the same property description to Joseph E. and Selina Drake which was due on or before ten years after date with interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum, payable annually.

**Entry 18.** Apparently the Peacocks were unable to repay the monies owed and on March 25, 1922 and for $1.00 gave a quit claim deed to Joseph E. Drake for "all that part of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 lying east of the highway which runs through a portion of said land, provided that the parties of the first part (the Peacocks) retain the right to the crop for the year 1922 and the privilege of removing the same." Because this quit claim deed was acknowledged April 4, 1922 by the Peacocks before a notary public for Dickenson Co., Iowa, we can assume they had moved out of state.

**Entry 19.** Apparently the Peacocks had repaid their loan from the Drakes, because on November 29, 1927 the Drakes had recorded a satisfaction of the mortgage which was filed December 1, 1927.

**Entries 20 & 21.** On February 13, 1939 is entered a Final Decree of Distribution of the Joseph E. Drake Estate. Recorded is "That said decedent died testate on the 7th day of September, 1938; that the residue of the estate of said decedent for distribution consists of the following property, to wit: all that part of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 lying east of the highway; also other land and personal property. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed, and the said Court does hereby order, adjudge and decree; that the title to the above described real estate has passed to and is hereby assigned to and vested in the following named persons: Joseph S. Drake; Ella S. Clapham; Forest H. Drake; Frank E. Drake; Cora M. Heleniak, and Ralph E. Drake, children of said decedent, in the following proportions and estate, to wit: to each an undivided one-sixth interest therein."

**Entry 22.** On October 31, 1938 Joseph S. Drake and Ethel Drake, his wife for $1.00 gave a warranty deed to his siblings Ella S. Clapham; Forest H. Drake; Frank E. Drake; Cora M. Heleniak; and Ralph E. Drake for their "undivided one-sixth interest in that part of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26-111-20 lying east of the highway; also other lands not in this abstract." This deed was witnessed and the Certificate of the Clerk of Circuit Court for the County of Isabella, State of Michigan, attached to the deed. (NOTE: this is dated before Entries 20 and 21.)

**Entry 23.** On March 4, 1939 Forest H. Drake and Mable Drake, his wife for $1.00 gave a warranty deed to his siblings Ella S. Clapham; Frank E. Drake; Cora Heleniak; and Ralph E. Drake for their "undivided one-fifth interest" in the property described in Entry 22. This warranty deed was witnessed before a notary public for Hennepin County, Minn.

**Entries 24 and 25.** These entries are duplicates of Entries 22 and 23. No reason is given for the duplication in the abstract. NOTE: in both entries Forest Drake's wife's name is spelled Mable.

(continued on page 5)

## Reading Land Records for Family Information
(continued from page 4)

**Entry 26.** This is a sworn statement made by Frank E. Drake and filed for record Oct. 26, 1940. "Frank E. Drake, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a grandson of Edwin S. Drake and that he is also a grandson of Joseph Spriggs.

"That Edwin S. Drake who is named the grantee in a patent recorded in Book 33 of Deeds on page 559 in the office of the Register of Deeds in Rice County, is the same person who executed the deed as grantor by the name of E. S. Drake which was recorded in the office of said Register of Deeds in Book 73 of Deeds on page 602.

"That Joseph Spriggs is dead; that Selina Drake, who was the mother of affiant, made all payments required by her to be made in that deed to her from Joseph Spriggs which is recorded in Book 55 of Deeds on page 596 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rice County, Minnesota.

"That Joseph E. Drake was the father of affiant and that said Joseph E. Drake died on the 7th day of September, 1938." S/ FRANK E. DRAKE

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of October, 1940. Burton R. Sawyer, Notary Public, Rice County, Minnesota.

**Entry 27.** On October 5, 1940 for $1.00 and other good and valuable consideration Ella S. Clapham, also known as Ella S. Drake Clapham and Leon Clapham, her husband; Frank E. Drake and Allie Drake, his wife; Cora M. Heleniak and A. P. Heleniak, her husband; and Ralph E. Drake and Helen Drake, his wife; gave a warranty deed to Mabell C. Herkenratt for the NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 26 and the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 23-111-20, Rice County, Minnesota. This document was notarized for Ella S. Clapham, also known as Ella S. Drake Clapham, and Leon Clapham, her husband, in Stanislaus County, Calif.; for Frank E. Drake and Allie Drake, his wife, and Ralph E. Drake and Helen Drake, his wife, in Rice County, Minnesota; for Cora M. Heleniak and A. P. Heleniak, her husband, in Meeker County, Minnesota.

**Entry 28.** Affidavit State of Minnesota, County of Rice

Mabell C. Herkenratt, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is 61 years of age, and that her post office address is Dundas, Minnesota. That she is the person who is the owner of certain real estate situated in the County of Rice, State of Minnesota, and described as follows;

Tract II — North one-half of the Southwest Quarter (N 1/2 of SW 1/4) Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Eleven (111), Range Twenty (20).

Tract III — Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4 of NE 1/4) Section Twenty-six (26), and East One-half of the Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 of SE 1/4), Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Eleven (111), Range Twenty (20).

That she has never applied for or received Old Age Assistance from the County of Rice, State of Minnesota, or any other political subdivision of the State of Minnesota. That she is not the same person as one named Mabel Herkenratt of Dundas, Minnesota, named in the certificate of the county abstract wherein he recites an Old Age Assistance lien, Certificate No. 855, dated Dec. 23, 1939, filed for record January 2, 1940, as Document No. 525, and that no property of your affiant's is subject to any Old Age Pension Lien.

That said person in the aforesaid certificate is the mother-in-law of your affiant and also lives in Dundas, Minnesota, and that said person named in said Old Age Assistance Lien is 79 years of age, and that the said Mabel Herkenratt, named in the aforesaid certificate has never had any right, title, interest, or lien or mortgage on your affiant's property as described above, and that the property aforesaid is free from all encumbrances, except a mortgage on Tract II in favor of Federal Land Bank of St. Paul.

That this affidavit is made for the purpose of clearing up the record and showing that there is no Old Age Assistance Lien now in effect against the aforesaid property. S/MABELL C. HERKENRATT

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of May, 1946. Burton R. Sawyer, Notary Public, Rice County, Minnesota.

**Entry 29/30.** Affidavit State of Minnesota, County of Rice

Mabel Herkenratt, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is 79 years of age, and that she now resides in Dundas, Minnesota. That she never had had and does not now have any right, title or interest in property described as follows:

Tract II — North one-half of the Southwest Quarter (N 1/2 of SW 1/4) Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Eleven (111), Range Twenty (20).

(continued on page 6)

## Reading Land Records for Family Information
(continued from page 5)

Entry 29/30 (cont.)

Tract III Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4 of NE 1/4) Section Twenty-six (26), and East One-half of the Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 of SE 1/4), Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Eleven (111), Range Twenty (20).

That she has been receiving Old Age Assistance from the County of Rice, State of Minnesota, and that the record thereof is filed in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for Rice County, Minnesota, Certificate No. 855, dated December 23, 1939, filed for record Jan. 2, 1940 as Document No. 525.

That she is the mother-in-law of Mabell C. Herkenratt, who your affiant is informed and believes owns the aforesaid described property, and that your affiant is the information and belief that said person is only 61 years of age and has never applied for or received Old Age Assistance and is not eligible to receive same.

That this affidavit is made for the purpose of clearing the record concerning an Old Age Assistance Grant which your affiant now received. S/MABEL HERKENRATT
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of May, 1946. Burton R. Sawyer, Notary Public, Rice County, Minnesota.

Entry 31. Affidavit State of Minnesota, County of Rice

Eleanor McFarlane, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is an employee of the Rice County Welfare Board and is an assistant in the Welfare Department of said Rice County, Minn. That she is personally acquainted with the Mabel Herkenratt of Dundas, Minnesota, who is and has been receiving Old Age Assistance from the County of Rice, State of Minnesota, and that she positively knows that said person has no right, title, estate, interest, or lien in and to the following property:

Tract II North one-half of the Southwest Quarter (N 1/2 of SW 1/4) Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Eleven (111), Range Twenty (20).

Tract III Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4 of NE 1/4) Section Twenty-six (26), and East One-half of the Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 of SE 1/4), Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Eleven (111), Range Twenty (20).

That she further positively knows that the owner of said property is a Mabell C. Herkenratt, who is now 61 years of age, and that said person has never received Old Age Pension from the County of Rice, State of Minnesota as disclosed by the records of the Welfare Board of Rice County, Minnesota.

That this affidavit is made for the purpose of identifying the person (who) received Old Age Assistance and of clearing the above described property of all lien thereon. S/ELEANOR MCFARLANE
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20 day of May, 1946. Eva C. Kaul, Notary Public, Rice County, Minnesota.

Entries 32 & 33. These two entries concern right of way easements given to Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric, a corporation, by Harold F. Closson and Mrs. Harold F. Closson, husband and wife, and John F. Sweet, widower, neither of which pertain to the property covered by this abstract.

Entry 34. On Sept. 2, 1946 Mabell C. Herkenratt, Thomas Howard Frame and Margaret Elizabeth Frame gave Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric, a corporation, right of way easement upon the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26 and E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 23, all in Twp. 111 N. Rge. 20----

Entry 35. State of Minnesota, County of Rice

Frank E. Drake, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a resident of the City of Northfield, Minnesota, and a brother of Cora Heleniak who is named as one of the grantees in a deed recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Rice County, Minnesota, on Oct. 26th, 1940, in book 125 of deeds on page 195 covering in part the following real estate in Rice County, Minnesota: The E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 and all that part of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 lying East of the highway in Sec. 26: and the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 23, all in Twp. 111 Rge 20.

That said Cora Heleniak also did business under the name of Cora M. Heleniak and signed and delivered a deed recorded in the office of said Register of Deeds on Oct. 26th, 1940, in Book 147 of Deeds on page 581 covering the following described real estate in Rice County, Minnesota: the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26 and the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 23, all in Twp. 111 Rge. 20,

That the party named as Cora Heleniak who is named as grantee in the deed above described is the same person as Cora M. Heleniak who is one of the grantees in the deed last above described.

S/FRANK E. DRAKE
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Sept. 1946. Burton R. (continued on page 7)

**Entry 35 (cont.)** Sawyer, Notary Public, Rice County, Minnesota.

**Entry 36.** On Oct. 4, 1946 for $1.00 Mabell C. Herkenratt, a widow, gave a joint tenancy warranty deed to Thomas Howard Frame and Margaret E. Frame for the 120 acres in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26 and the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 23, all in Twp. 111 Rge. 20.
**The land then passed out of the possession of our relatives and furnishes no further genealogical information for our family.**

### What can we learn from this abstract?

1) We learn how and when Edwin S. Drake secured this land, its location, but not how much was paid.
2) We learn the first name of Edwin Drake's wife, Martha, but not her maiden name.
3) We learn that Edwin S. and Martha Drake also owned other lands in Rice, Goodhue and Dakota counties, but not the sizes or locations of the property.
4) We learn that they were not adverse to borrowing money to further their acquisitions, but not what they were.
5) We learn that the land descended to Joseph E. Drake (the eldest son).
6) We learn the name of Joseph E. Drake's wife, Selina, and eventually her father's name (Joseph Spriggs).
7) We learn the names of Joseph E. and Selina Drake's six children, where they resided and the names of their spouses.
8) We learn that Frank E. Drake is a grandson of both Edwin S. Drake and Joseph Spriggs and that both were deceased by 1940, but not when or where they died.
9) We learn that Frank E. Drake is the son of Joseph E. Drake who died 7 September 1938.
10) We learn that the land left the ownership of the Drake family October 1940 and went to Mabell C. Herkenratt who is another relative of our family.
11) We learn that there are two Mabel/Mabell Herkenratts, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, where they reside, and their ages, which means we can calculate their approximate years of birth. We also learn that Mabell Herkenratt is a widow, her middle initial is C, but not her maiden name. Also that Mabel Herkenratt had exhausted her means and needed help with her living expenses.
12) We learn that this property left all members of our family in October 1946.

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### Forest Township Records Copying Project Completed

We are pleased to announce that the Rice County Genealogical Society's project to copy and verify the Forest Township Record Books #1, #2, #3, #4 and the Criminal Docket (J.P.) book has been completed. An 8 1/2" x 11" copy of Book #1 including the birth and death indices and the 2nd matching volume containing Books #2, #3, #4 and the Criminal Docket (J.P.) are now available for use in our library in the Marston Headley Research Room at the Northfield Historical Society Museum. These books are bound to allow left- and right-hand page entries to be searched across the pages. A set of books also is being furnished to Forest Township so that the originals can be preserved, and the Rice County Historical Society will be shelving a copy of the records also. Please note that the oversized Book #1 has been reduced in size to conform to the 8 1/2" x 11" format of the other volume.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the following gifts for our library in the Marston Headley Research Room at the Northfield Historical Society Museum:

a) materials from Gladys L. Treadway on the Isaiah Blackford Richey family;
b) updated Emeott Family History information package from Thomas E. Ross with a request to discard all pages of the Feb. 2003 package;
c) supplements to Thomas E. Ross' history of James "Red Jim" McDonnell (1828-1905) and Rose Ann McDonnell (1832-1874) which includes information on George "Lord George" McDonnell (1824-1892 prepared in November 1998 and to the history of James McDonnell nicknamed "Black Jim" prepared in January 2003.

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## MN Genealogist Needs Stories

(from MN Families, Newsletter for the MN Genealogical Society Vol. 37, No. 3 Aug. 2006)

### Who Were Your Eight Great-Grandparents?

The folks who bring you the ***Minnesota Genealogist*** want to know, and others may well find the information useful in their own genealogical research. We all have great-grandparents and most of us know who they were. In fact some of know a lot about at least one or two of them--and maybe all. In any event, while we may not know everything we would like to know yet, we are working on it. Sharing what you know often opens doors to new information from others and certainly gives you an opportunity to be an active, participating member of our genealogical community. Over the next few weeks and months, we want to hear from you, if you would be so kind.

Give us some **basic information**. Tell us who your great-grandparents were. Give their names, birth dates and places of birth, marriage dates and places, and death dates and places. Full birth names along with nicknames are useful. For each person and event, tell us all you know.

Second, tell their **stories**, their parentage and nationality, siblings and children, occupations, religions, adventures and misadventures--and anything else you would like to share. Others are often quite taken with details and tales we think little about. Do not get hung up on the writing of your grandparents' stories. Just write it like you talk and our copy editors will take it from there. Make the story however long you need it to be to tell it well.

Email your **basic information** and your **stories** to <mgs@mercermercer.com> as soon as you get them ready--the sooner the better. We will begin publishing your information with the Spring 2007 issue. The deadline for receipt of materials for the Spring 2007 issue is Wednesday November 1, 2006.

Thank you. John Whitty Mercer, Editor.

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## Book About Norwegian Civil War Soldiers and Homesteading

(contributed by Norma Gilbertson)

A book has been published containing information on about 6,500 Norwegian emigrants who fought in the Civil War to enable them to obtain an enlistment bonus which would give them a chance to purchase a farm and start a new life. Details about the book can be found at **<www.vesterheim.org>**.

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## MN Birth Index 1900-1935 now online

Nina Archabal, Director of the Minnesota Historical Society, has announced that the MN Birth Index 1900-1935 is online for use and can be be reached at **mnhs.org.** Volunteers provided countless hours of time to scan and index the nearly 1.8 million birth records on this web site.

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## Special Thanks to Harriet Berg

Special thanks goes to Harriet Berg for time in copying and for her expertise in assembling in three-ring binders the copies of the Forest Twp. Record Books #1, #2, #3, #4 and the Criminal Docket (J.P.) book for our library and for delivery to Forest Twp. These are grey volumes with sleeves for holding the individual pages, which will facilitate ease in copying information as well as preserving the originals which otherwise could be destroyed by frequent handling.

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## Listing Update for City Clerks in Rice County in Spring '06 Issue of *Rice Gleanings*

While the addresses and phone numbers remain the same, the following city clerks have changed:

Dennison: Sarah Kelm, City Clerk
Dundas: John McCarthy, City Administrator and Clerk.

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## HELP WANTED

All members are encouraged to place queries with the RCGS. There is no charge and no limit to the numbers of queries per year. They will be printed as space permits and as soon as possible after they are received. Please type, print or write clearly. Words should be written in full to minimize errors. We may at our discretion use some abbreviations. Non-members will be charged a fee of $5 per entry. In addition, we will print group sheets, ancestor charts, pedigree or Ahnentafel (European) charts, and descendant charts for people with Rice County connections - free for members, $2 per sheet for non-members or we will print one free in connection with a non-member query submission. Again, they will be printed as space permits and as soon as possible after they are received.

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#2-2006 Dorothy Chester Herkenratt, 2405 NW 2nd Ave., Faribault, MN 55021
**Looking for copy of the Hon. Joseph Covert family Bible records. The Hon. Joseph Covert** (b. 29 Apr. 1828 Sullivan Co., NY - d. 20 Apr. 1893 Cannon City Twp., Rice Co., MN) **m. 1850 Sarah Frances Ogden** (b. 12 June 1832 Jersey City, Bergen Co., NJ - d. 28 Apr. 1898 Faribault, Rice Co., MN). **Children:** Samuel K. (b. 1850/51), Joseph Ogden (b. 19 Nov. 1852 NY), Sarah Frances (b.5 Sept. 1855 Wheeling Twp., Rice Co., MN), Henry D. (b. 1856/57), Alice Elizabeth (b. 2 Mar. 1858 Wheeling Twp., Rice Co., MN), Lina J. (b. 1860/61) & Katheryn (Kitt) (b. 1865/66). Samuel Covert and Alice Covert Swartwoudt had no issue. However, the others had from one to seven children. The A. Jackson and Lina J. Stauffer family moved to Spokane, WA and the Gustavus D. and Katheryn (Kitt) Shake family to Idaho. Elizabeth Covert Malloy said the Bible went West with the Shake family and the last she knew it was with a Robiny Case in MO and had come down from the Coverts to the Shakes to the Ritcheys and then to the Case family who apparently are not Covert descendants. Letters sent to Robiny Case are neither answered nor returned as undelivered. Would any of the other Covert family descendants have a copy of these records? Need to verify/document Covert line.
**It is especially important to secure this information soon as Elizabeth Covert Malloy, now 82 and in poor health, is anxious for me to complete and verify the Covert Family History so she can review it with her family before her death.**

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**NOTICE:** When members have a news item, query, list of lines being searched, or any other notice of interest to the general membership, please give or send the item to Dorothy Chester Herkenratt, 2405 NW 2nd Ave., Faribault 55021 so that it can be included in the Newsletter.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sympathy is extended to the family of Don Starr whose unexpected death on July 21, 2006 shocked our community. Don Starr was Starr Design Group owner and architect, without whose assistance our Forest Township Records Project could not have been completed.

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## WARNING TO THOSE ARCHIVING INFORMATION ON CD-R AND CD-RW FORMAT

An article on page 32 in the March 2006 issue of the *AARP Bulletin* reports that an IBM storage information expert warns those who plan to archive information by burning it on CD-R and CD-RW discs risk the loss or degradation of their digital videos, photographs, songs and other information. These discs typically last only two to five years unlike the professionally produced music and video recordings on pressed compact discs. The surface of the CD-R and CD-RW burned discs can be degraded by heat so that the information stored on them can no longer be read by laser beams. (One solution would be to copy the discs annually.)

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## Canada's National Archives Digitized Records

A large group of Canada's national archives records has been digitized into searchable records. These include censuses from 1871 to 1911, western land grants, passenger lists, WWI service file and divorce records from 1841 to 1968. It should be noted that Library and Archives Canada: ArchiviaNet has begun moving records to a new online system, Archives Search, which you can link to from ArchiviaNet. <www.collectionscanada.ca/02/0201_e.html>

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Rice County Genealogical Society
408 Division Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Stamp

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - RENEWAL FOR 2007

**(Please print)**
**Name** _____

**Address** _____
_____

**Phone** (___) _____

**Type of Membership:**
___ Individual $10 per calendar year
___ Family $12 per calendar year

___ I would like to make an additional donation of $_____ to help the Society meet its goals.

**Please make check payable to and send with this application to:**
Rice County Genealogical Society
Dorothy Herkenratt, Sec.-Treas.
2405 NW 2nd Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021

Form 4/2006